AIPG encourages the U.S. federal and state governments to support the environmentally responsible development of domestic mineral resources. The U.S. is a major consumer of metals, construction-related raw materials, fertilizers, industrial chemicals, critical metals and other mined materials which are essential to modern society and our quality of life. Existing state and federal laws protect the environment during exploration, development, and closure of mining operations and prohibit development of mineral resources on environmentally sensitive land. Adherence to environmental, safety and reclamation regulations in the U.S. allows us to responsibly develop mineral resources. As the global population increases and people worldwide strive for higher standards of living, demand for mineral resources will increase. Technological advances relating to all aspects of mineral resource development can contribute to the U.S. becoming the world leader in the environmentally responsible development of mineral resources at home and abroad. Geologists contribute to all aspects of the exploration for and production of mineral resources. Geoscience specialists are instrumental in the protection of groundwater and air-quality, reclamation, permitting and long-term environmental monitoring during mining and after mine closure.